

GREEN ASH

Fraxinus pennsylvanica Marsh.

OTHER COMMON NAMES: Darlington ash, White ash, Swamp ash, Water ash, Red ash.

FORM: 40-60 feet high, diameter rarely more than 18-20 inches, may reach a height of 70 feet with stout upright branches, forming a compact irregularly shaped crown.

BARK: 1/2-2/3 inch thick, brown, tinged with red, slightly furrowed, surface of the ridges separating into thin appressed scales.

TWIGS: At first terete, with a pale tomentum that may persist until the second or third year or may disappear the first summer, ultimately ashy-gray or light brown tinged with red, marked by pale lenticels.

LEAVES: Opposite, 10-12 inches long, compound with 7-9 oblong-lanceolate, ovate-elliptic or slightly obovate leaflets, that are 3-5 inches long, 1-1 1/2 inches wide, gradually narrowed at apex into a long slender point, slightly toothed on the margin.

FLOWERS: Appear before or with the leaves, dioecious; staminate in dense purplish-red clusters; pistillate greenish-red, in open panicles.

FRUIT: A samara, borne in open panicles; samara 1-2 inches long, the wing-like portion attached along sides of the seed, apex of the wing narrowed, rounded, occasionally emarginate, acute or acuminate or apiculate.

WINTER BUDS: Opposite, terminal, about 1/8 inch long, ovate, brown, covered with brownish scales, 2-3 pairs of which are visible.

WOOD: Heavy, hard, rather strong, light brown, rather wide, and light colored sapwood.

USES: Pulp, lumber, tool handles, baseball bats, furniture, flooring. Historical uses: barrel staves, boats.

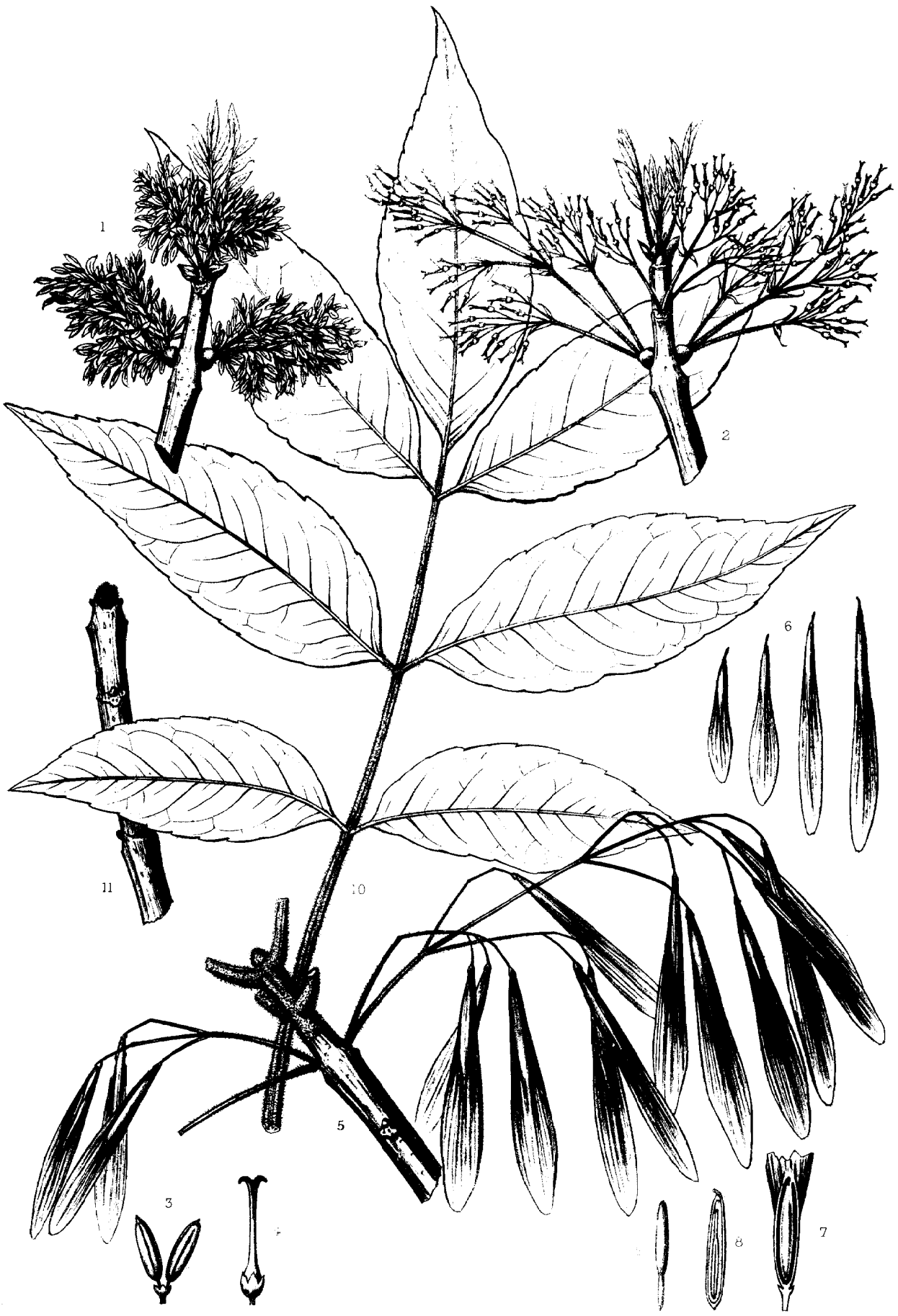
HABITAT: Low rich moist soil near banks of streams and lakes.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS: Wing to below middle of the fruit; body of the fruit almost round; requires low rich moist soil.

DISTRIBUTION IN ALABAMA: Range in the state not well known; reported from Jefferson and apparently in Morgan, Bibb, Dallas, and Butler Counties.

EXPLANATION OF PLATE

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| 1. A flowering branch of the staminate tree | 6. Fruits of different forms |
| 2. A flowering branch of the pistillate tree | 7. Vertical section of a fruit |
| 3. A staminate flower | 8. Vertical section of a seed |
| 4. A pistillate flower | 9. An embryo |
| 5. A fruiting branch | 10. A leaf |
| | 11. A winter branchlet |



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